

Mission

To provide fathers with supportive services that address barriers to meeting parental obligations and increase the positive involvement of fathers' in the lives of their children.



Vision

The Fairfax Fatherhood Collaborative (FFC) members ascribe to a vision of a community that values fathers for their importance to children; and that supports involved, committed and responsible fatherhood by providing prevention, intervention, mediation and educational resources; as well as advocating for responsible fatherhood programs and services.

The Fairfax Fatherhood Collaborative (FFC) is a coalition of involved agencies and interested individuals working to provide leadership, coordinate services, and develop additional community capacity to help fathers strengthen the relationship with their children and meet their family obligations.

Members of the FAIRFAX FATHERHOOD COLLABORATIVE

- Fairfax County Community Services Board
- Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services
- Fairfax County Dept. of Housing and Community Development
- Fairfax County Dept. of Systems
- Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Great Dads of the Washington Region
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services
- OAR of Fairfax County, Inc.
- SAARA (Substance Abuse Addiction and Recovery Alliance)
- Shelter House, Inc.
- Virginia Dept. of Child Support Enforcement
- Virginia Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- Community Volunteers & Faith-based Organizations

Contact:

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Fairfax, VA 22030
703-246-3033

Providing Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources to break the cycle of crime.

THE FAIRFAX FATHERHOOD COLLABORATIVE



**... Because a committed,
involved, and responsible
father makes a tremendous
positive impact on the
future of his child.**

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the collaborative are:

- Involved, committed and responsible fathers are essential to the well-being of children, as role models, nurturers, protectors and providers.
- Systems and programs should respond to the needs of fathers, for the purpose of stabilizing families, enhancing the parent/child relationship and strengthening communities.
- Available resources must be adequate, accessible, and appropriate; and must be streamlined for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.
- The Collaborative will seek to minimize issues of “turf”, and maximize inclusive, collaborative approaches.
- Constructive methods should be developed for easing the reconnection of non-custodial fathers with their children, as appropriate.
- The Collaborative recognizes the negative impact on the community’s resources in the absence of committed, involved, responsible fathers.

Initial Goals

The initial focus of the Fairfax Fatherhood Collaborative will include identifying and promoting best practice Prevention, Intervention, and Mediation (**PIM**) strategies targeting fathers and fathers-to-be, especially the special issues facing non-custodial fathers. This focus will include, but not be limited to strategies which:

- Generate a common vision and enhanced public perception about fatherhood.
- Encourage increased parental involvement and/or visitation as appropriate.
- Strengthen and promote effective parenting skills.
- Provide alternatives to incarceration for child support arrears.
- Provide supportive services to address employment, mental health, substance abuse and other barriers to meeting parental obligations.

How Can You Get Involved?

- Be listed as a recognized area service provider for referrals.
- Join one of the FFC committees.
 - Public Awareness & Education
 - Program Development
 - Strategic Planning & Membership
 - Resource Development
- Provide financial and/or in kind service contributions toward the efforts of the Fairfax Fatherhood Collaborative.